

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-12 and 14-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the features of claims 2-4 have been incorporated into claim 1 and the features of claim 13 have been incorporated into claim 12. Also, the dependency of claims 5, 6 and 8-10 have been corrected and claims 2-4 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Klaue, U.S. Patent No. 4,727,764. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Klaue fails to disclose a range shift display unit wherein the display processing means drives the display portion corresponding to the target range by a first driving method for the target range until the shift means reaches the shift position for the target range and drives the display portion corresponding to the target range by a second driving method for the target range after the shift means has reached the shift position for the target range, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 12.

Klaue discloses a transmission system wherein, during axial movement of the gearshift rod 43, the driver is informed of a momentary position through a digital display 49 controlled by a processor (col. 5, lines 59-61). The speed selected by the driver as a respective numeral thus appears on the display 49 (col. 5, lines 61-62). A warning signal informs the driver during the shift operation that the synchronization of the selected speed is not yet completed (col. 5, lines 62-66). In order to avoid unnecessarily long synchronization times in shifting down and to aid the driver in selecting the lower speed, the microprocessor can cause the blinking, on another digital display, of the number of the lowest possible gear in which the input end of the transmission will not overspeed or the vehicle must be slowed down using the operating brake (col. 5, line 67 - col. 6, line 5).

As such, Klaue fails to drive a display portion to correspond to a target range, the target range being selected based on a shift operation by a driver. In Klaue, the display 49 only informs the driver of a momentary or actual position, and not a target position. Applicants also assert that Klaue's other display, as discussed in col. 5, line 67 - col. 6, line 5, fails to correspond to Applicants' display portion because that other display fails to display a target range. Klaue's other display fails to display the target range because it only displays a lowest possible gear or speed, and not a target range based on a shift operation by a driver. As such, Klaue fails to drive a display portion to correspond to a target range as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Klaue also fails to drive a display portion to correspond to a target range by a driving method that is selected based on a shift position of a shift means relative to the target range. Klaue first provides a discussion with regard to a manual transmission (col. 4, line 39). As such, determining the location of a shift position of a shift means relative to the target range is not necessary because a gearshift rod 43 for a manual transmission is directly shifted by a driver. In other words, because the gearshift rod 43 is directly and mechanically connected to a shift means, the target position is always the same as the shift position. Although, Klaue further discloses a semiautomatic transmission (col. 6, line 42) and a fully automatic transmission (col. 8, line 61), Klaue limits their discussion with regard to the display 49 to the manual transmission. Accordingly, Klaue fails to provide two driving methods that are based on the shift position of a shift means relative to the target range.

In view of the foregoing, Klaue fails to disclose all of the features recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 12. In addition, claims 5-11 and 14-18 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 12 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5-12 and 14-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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